

ULTIMATE

X-MEN

ISSUE

4

BETRAYAL



MARVEL
COMICS



DIRECT EDITION



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CROATIA

STORM,
THIS IS CYCLOPS.
I DON'T THINK WE
READ YOUR LAST
MESSAGE
CORRECTLY.

DID
YOU JUST
SAY BEAST'S
DEAD?


STAN LEE
presents:

THE TOMORROW PEOPLE

PART
4
OF
6

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HOW AM
I SUPPOSED
TO KNOW? I'M A
CAR THIEF, NOT
A DOCTOR.

ALL I KNOW
IS THAT A BOMB
WENT OFF UNDER
THE GUY, AND NOW HE
ISN'T MOVING OR
BREATHING.

HOW THE
HECK ARE WE
GOING TO GET
HIM OUT OF
HERE?



NIPS

WHAT WAS
THAT?

CROAT SNIPERS
WITH A MAD-ON FOR
MUTANTS, I THINK. MAN,
HOW DOES THAT BALD-
HEADED CRANK IN THE
WHEELCHAIR TALK US
INTO THIS STUFF,
CYCLOPS?

OH MY
GOD!

THPPP!









BACK OFF,
MAGNETO.



I DON'T CARE
WHO YOU ARE,
OR WHAT YOU
CAN DO.

TAKE ONE MORE STEP TOWARDS MY PEOPLE
AND I'LL BURN A HOLE IN YOU LIKE A
DOUGHNUT, MISTER.



DON'T TALK
TO ME ABOUT
YOUR PEOPLE,
CYCLOPS.

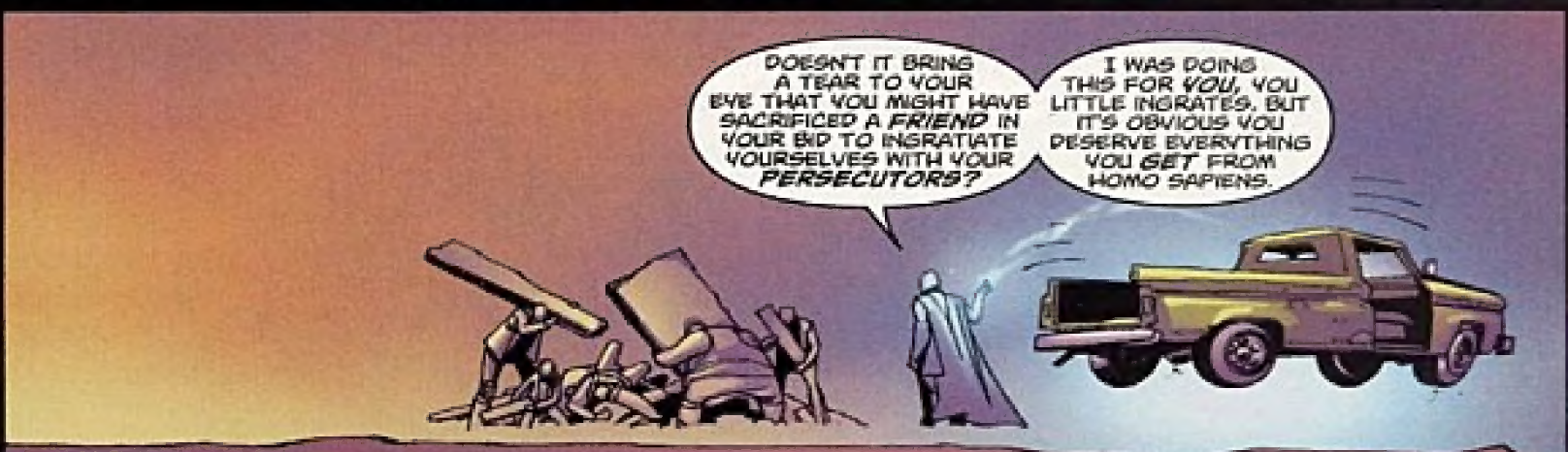
YOUR PEOPLE
ARE BEING EXECUTED
ON THE STREETS OF SO-
CALLED CIVILIZED SOCIETY
EVERY DAY, AND WHAT
ARE YOU DOING, YOU
TREACHEROUS, LITTLE
LAPDOG?



SABOTAGING
A SIMPLE KIDNAP PLOT
WHICH MIGHT HAVE
ENDED THE PRESIDENT'S
SENTINEL INITIATIVE
AT A STROKE.



HOW COULD YOU COME HERE AND RISK YOUR LIVES TO DEFEND THE STATE-SANCTIONED MURDER OF YOUR OWN SPECIES?



DOESN'T IT BRING A TEAR TO YOUR EYE THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE SACRIFICED A FRIEND IN YOUR BID TO INGRATATE YOURSELVES WITH YOUR PERSECUTORS?

I WAS DOING THIS FOR YOU, YOU LITTLE INGRATES. BUT IT'S OBVIOUS YOU DESERVE EVERYTHING YOU GET FROM HOMO SAPIENS.



MY ONLY DESIRE NOW IS THAT THE SENTINELS YOU'VE RISKED EVERYTHING TO RETAIN GIVE YOU A SLOW AND PAINFUL DEATH.



LISTEN, THIS ISN'T AS BLACK AND WHITE AS IT LOOKS, MAGNETO. WE WEREN'T EXACTLY JUMPING FOR JOY ABOUT COMING HERE OURSELVES.

SAVE YOUR BREATH, CYCLOPS. I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO SAY TO INFANTS HELL-BENT ON SUICIDE.



JUST GO.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND, FATHER.

XAVIER BEING SEPARATED FROM HIS FOLLOWERS LIKE THIS GAVE WOLVERINE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO CATCH HIM ALONE.



YOU DON'T THINK HE'S LOST HIS MIND AND ALLIED HIMSELF WITH THAT LITTLE BAND OF RENEGADES, DO YOU?

DON'T BE SUCH AN IDIOT, SCARLET WITCH.

WOLVERINE ALWAYS GETS THE JOB DONE, AND MURDERING CHARLES WAS SOMETHING HE WAS VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO.

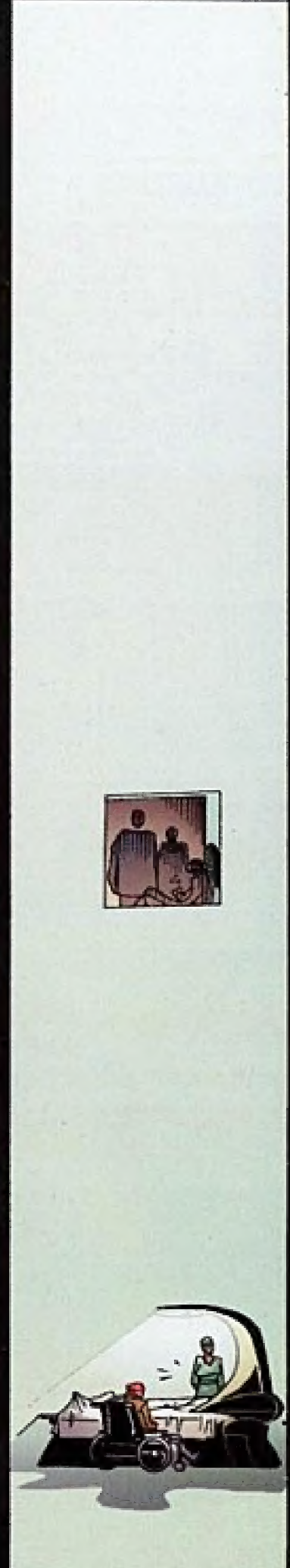


HE'S ONLY DOING WHAT HE DID WHEN I SENT HIM TO KILL THAT LITTLE DESPOT IN THE GULF AND THE CEO OF THAT CORPORATION WHICH WAS PUMPING ALL THAT WRETCHED FILTH INTO THE OCEAN.



YOU KNOW WOLVERINE.

HOLDING OFF ON A KILL JUST MEANS THERE'S A WOMAN HE'S TRYING TO GET INTO BED FIRST.



I DIDN'T KNOW JEAN AND THE PROFESSOR WERE SURGEONS.

THEY AREN'T, BUT THEY'RE AS QUALIFIED AS ANYONE WITHIN THEIR MIND-READING RADIUS.

FIFTY TIMES AS FAR IF THE PROFESSOR'S MENTAL ABILITIES ARE ENHANCED BY CEREPRO.

THEY CALL IT SOMETHING, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER THE WORD. BRAIN-STORMING, I THINK.

BOBBY'S TAKING THIS VERY BADLY. HE'S LOCKED HIMSELF IN HIS ROOM AND MADE ME PROMISE NOT TO BREAK IN THE DOOR.

IT'S EASY TO FORGET WHAT AGE HE IS, ISN'T IT? I MEAN, WHAT MUST THIS SEEM LIKE WHEN YOU'RE FIFTEEN YEARS OLD?

YOU KNOW THE WORST PART OF IT ALL FOR ME?

THAT SICKENING, GET-RIGHT-UNDER-YOUR-SKIN DETAIL THAT MAKES ME ASHAMED I USED TO CALL MYSELF A HUMAN BEING?

WHAT'S THAT?

I CALLED BEAST'S MOM TO TELL HER WHAT HAPPENED --

-- AND THE BISOTED OLD WITCH WOULDN'T EVEN TAKE MY CALL.





HOW'S HE DOING?

SURPRISINGLY WELL, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.

THE INTERNAL DAMAGE HE SUSTAINED WAS SIGANTIC--

--BUT WE FOUND A BIO-TECH TEAM IN SEATTLE ON THE VERGE OF PATENTING A REVOLUTIONARY NEW TRANSPLANT PROCEDURE.




HUMAN TRIALS STILL HAVE TO BE OKAYED BY THE FDA, BUT THE ANIMAL TESTS HAVE BEEN INSANELY SUCCESSFUL.

IN FACT, THE ONLY SIDE EFFECT RECORDED WAS A GANG OF AFRICAN SPIDER-MONKEYS WHOSE FUR TURNED NAVY-BLUE, AND EVEN THAT ONLY HAPPENED IN LESS THAN ONE PER CENT OF CASES.




GOD BLESS THOSE ALTRUISTIC PRIMATES, HUH?



ANY WORD
ON WHEN BEAST'S
GONNA BE BACK ON
HIS FEET?

THE PROFESSOR RECKONS HE SHOULD BE VERTICAL
AGAIN IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS, BUT IT'S CYCLOPS WHO'S GIVING
THE SMART MONEY IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME AT THE MOMENT.



DON'T
TELL ME HE'S
STILL BLAMING
HIMSELF FOR
ALL THIS?


ARE YOU
KIDDING? CYCLOPS
BLAMES HIMSELF
FOR THE HOLE IN THE
OZONE LAYER,
WOLVERINE.

COORDINATING
AN OPERATION WHERE
ONE OF US ALMOST DIED
IS THE WORST THING
THAT COULD HAPPEN
TO AN EIGHTEEN-YEAR-
OLD CONTROL
FREAK.

ESPECIALLY
WHEN HE DIDN'T
EVEN WANT TO GO
ON THE MISSION
AND PROFESSOR X
TALKED HIM
INTO IT.




HE
FEELS LIKE A
FIRST-CLASS
IDIOT.

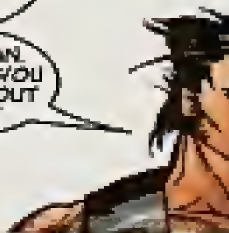


WHAT ABOUT
YOU? HOW DO
YOU FEEL?

RATTLED, BUT I
TRUST THE PROFESSOR.
AND THE LATEST FROM
WASHINGTON IS THAT THE
PRESIDENT'S FEELING HIGHLY
CONCILIATORY SINCE HE
GOT HIS DAUGHTER BACK.



THE PROFESSOR
EXPECTS A SUSPENSION
OF THE SENTINEL PROGRAM
IN THE NEXT SIXTY TO
NINETY MINUTES.



NO, JEAN.
HOW DO YOU
FEEL ABOUT
ME?

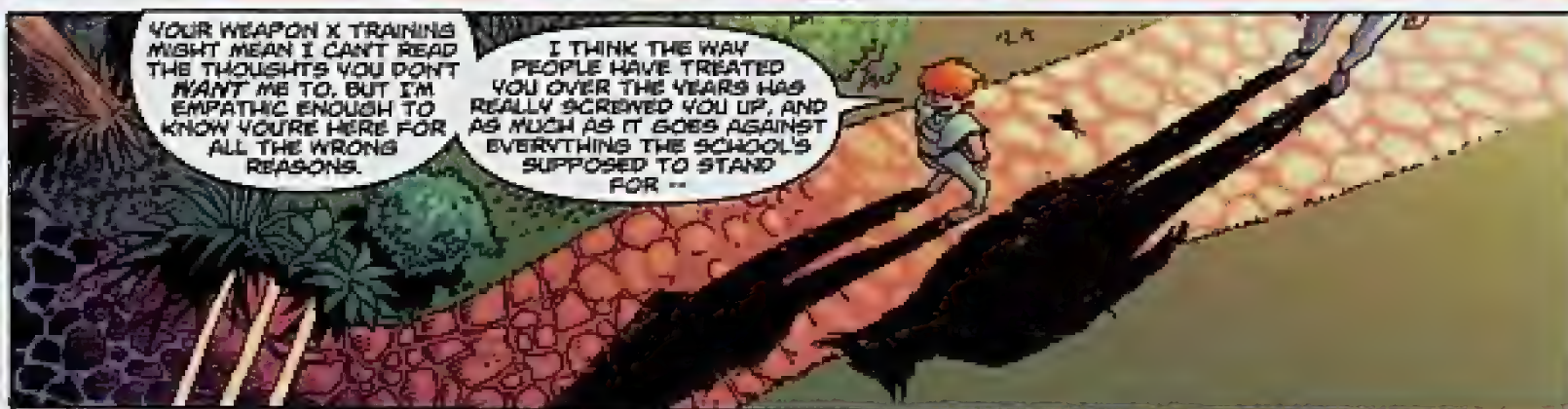


HONESTLY?



I'M NOT SURE I PARTICULARLY LIKE YOU, WOLVERINE.

SURE, YOU'VE PROVED YOURSELF AS AN X-MAN, BUT I HAVEN'T BOUGHT THIS IDEA THAT YOU'RE AN OVERNIGHT CONVERT TO PROFESSOR XAVIER'S INTEGRATIONIST IDEOLOGY.

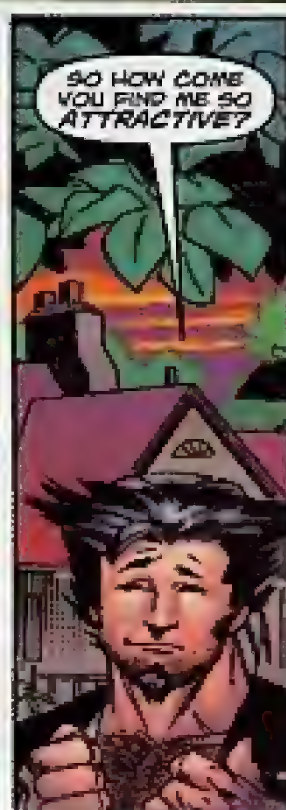


YOUR WEAPON X TRAINING MIGHT MEAN I CAN'T READ THE THOUGHTS YOU DON'T WANT ME TO, BUT I'M EMPATHIC ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU'RE HERE FOR ALL THE WRONG REASONS.

I THINK THE WAY PEOPLE HAVE TREATED YOU OVER THE YEARS HAS REALLY SCREWED YOU UP, AND AS MUCH AS IT GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING THE SCHOOL'S SUPPOSED TO STAND FOR --



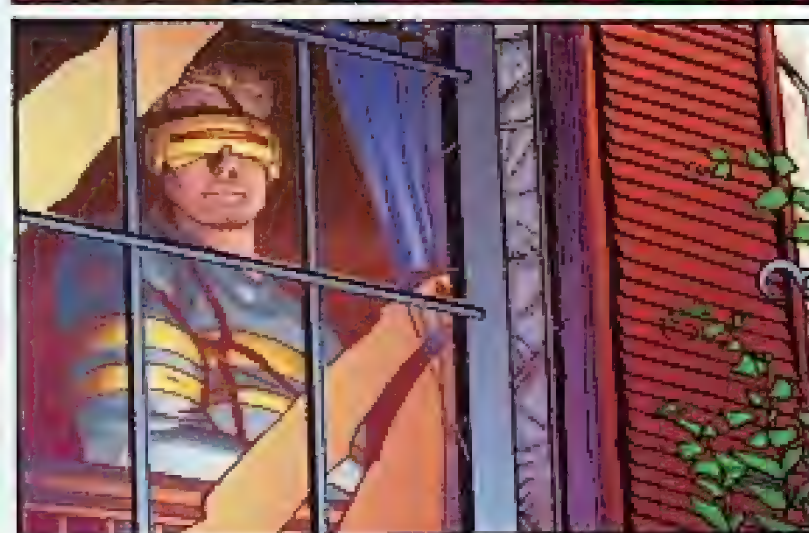
-- I REALLY, REALLY WISH WE'D NEVER MET YOU.



SO HOW COME YOU FIND ME SO ATTRACTIVE?



I WISH I KNEW.



ACTUALLY, I'M **ASTONISHED** THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SUSPENDED THE SENTINELS, BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT KIND OF POLITICAL PRESSURE HE WAS UNDER TO MAINTAIN A **TOUGH LINE**.

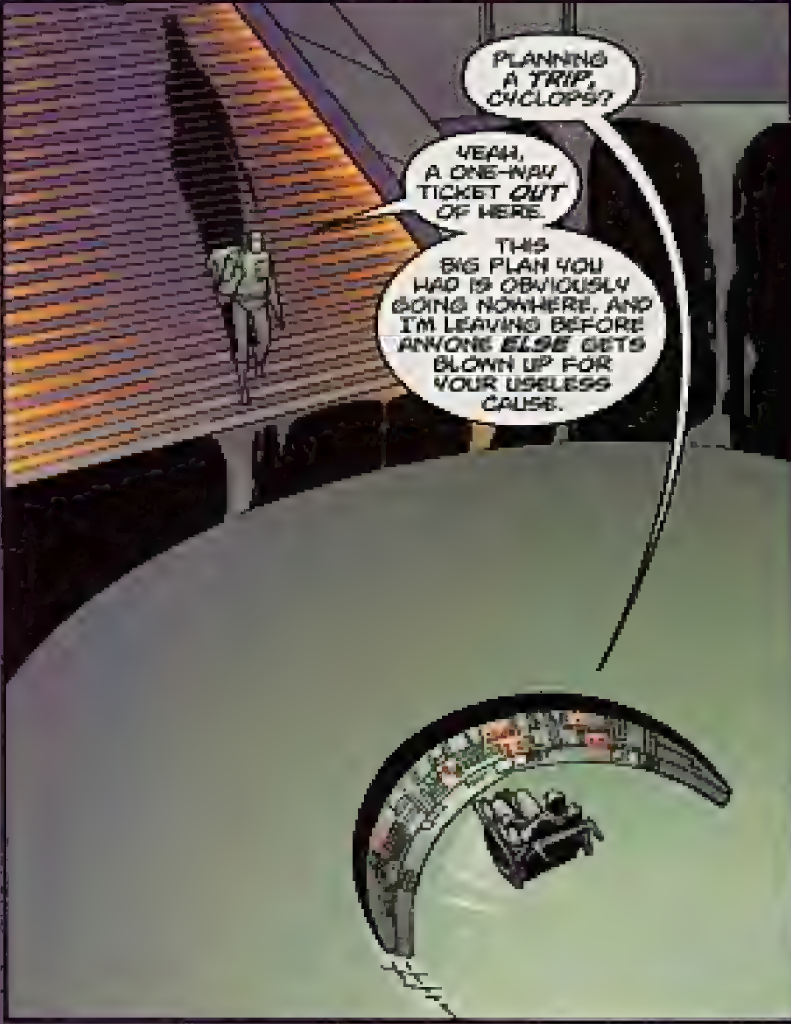
BUT TELL HIM I'M **DELIGHTED** BY HIS DECISION, AND PLEASED TO HAVE PLAYED A PART IN THE SAFE RETURN OF HIS DAUGHTER.

MY X-MEN AND I WOULD BE **HONORED** TO ACCEPT HIS INVITATION TO THE WHITE HOUSE, AND HOPE THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A LONG, FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIP.

LAYING IT ON A BIT **THICK**, AREN'T YOU, PROFESSOR?

WOULD YOU EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT, MS. RICE? ONE OF MY STUDENTS APPEARS TO BE HAVING PROBLEMS WITH HIS HOMEWORK.

IN YOUR OWN TIME, PROFESSOR XAVIER, WE'LL JUST BE SITTING HERE RUNNING THE COUNTRY IF YOU NEED US.



PLANNING
A TRIP,
CYCLOPS?

YEAH,
A ONE-WAY
TICKET OUT
OF HERE.

THIS
BIG PLAN YOU
HAD IS OBVIOUSLY
GOING NOWHERE, AND
I'M LEAVING BEFORE
ANYONE ELSE GETS
BLOWN UP FOR
YOUR USELESS
CAUSE.



WE'RE HARDLY
GOING NOWHERE, SCOTT.
I'VE JUST ARRANGED THE FIRST
HUMAN-MUTANT SUMMIT AND
NEGOTIATED A SUSPENSION OF
THE SENTINEL PROGRAM,
FOR GOD'S SAKE.



YOU MEAN WE'RE SUPPOSED
TO BE GRATEFUL BECAUSE THE
TEXANS GIVEN US A TEMPORARY
STAY OF EXECUTION?

I'M
NOT INTERESTED
IN GETTING A FEW
SCRAPS FROM THEIR
TABLE ANYMORE,
MAN.

I
JUST WANT
THE SAME
RIGHTS AS
EVERYBODY
ELSE.



BUT YOU HAVE
TO LOOK AT THIS FROM
THEIR PERSPECTIVE, CYCLOPS.
A NEW RACE HAS EMERGED,
BOMBED THEIR CITIES AND
DECLARED THEY'RE HERE TO
REPLACE THEM.

THE SENTINELS WERE
AN OBVIOUS KNEE-JERK
REACTION, BUT GETTING
EVERYONE AROUND THE
NEGOTIATING TABLE WAS
OUR OBJECTIVE FROM
THE BEGINNING.



WHY SHOULD WE SIT DOWN AND NEGOTIATE WITH THE KIND OF SCUM THAT PUT HENRY MCCOY IN A COMA?

BECAUSE THEY'RE HUMAN BEINGS, CYCLOPS. AND WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT, WE'RE SHARING THIS PLANET WITH SIX BILLION OF THEM.



MAGNETO'S IDEAS FOR A NEW AND BETTER WORLD ARE ATTRACTIVE TO ANY YOUNG MUTANT. BUT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT HE REMAINS THE SINGLE, GREATEST THREAT TO OUR FRAGILE PEACE PROCESS.

AS MUCH AS I TREASURE ALL FORMS OF LIFE, I WOULDN'T HESITATE TO SWITCH OFF HIS BRAIN IF IT WASN'T FOR THE THOUGHT-PROOF HELMET HE WEARS TO PROTECT HIMSELF.



THE OTHERS LOOK UP TO YOU, SCOTT. YOU LEAVING NOW WOULD HAVE A DISASTROUS EFFECT AT SUCH A PIVOTAL STAGE IN MY PLANS.

WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM AND UNPACK. AND WE'LL SAY NOTHING ELSE ABOUT THIS UNFORTUNATE LITTLE EPISODE, EH?



PROFESSOR...ARE YOU DOING SOMETHING TO MY MIND?

JUST RELEASING A PLEASANT HORMONE INTO YOUR BLOODSTREAM TO CALM THOSE RISING TEMPER, MY FRIEND.

WE WERE ABOUT TO EXCHANGE SIX VERY UNPLEASANT SENTENCES, AND I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT A REASONABLE BOY LIKE YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY MEAN THE FIFTH ONE.



CAN YOU
READ WHAT I'M
THINKING NOW,
PROFESSOR?



LANGUAGE
LIKE THAT BETRAYS
A LIMITED VOCABULARY,
CYCLOPS.



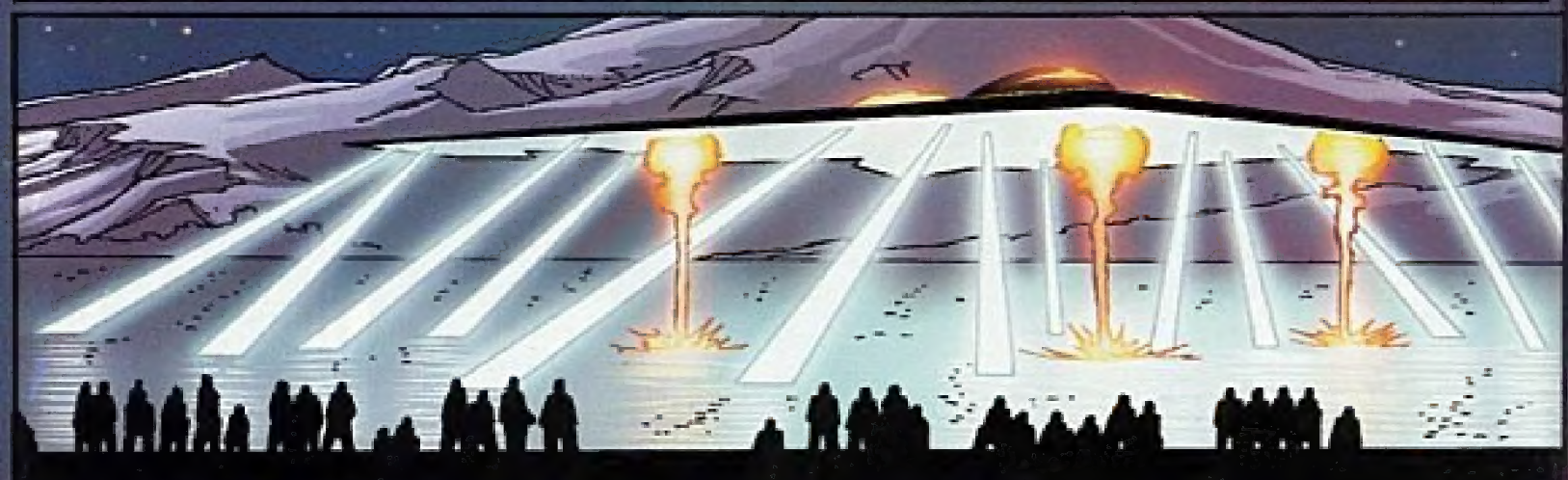
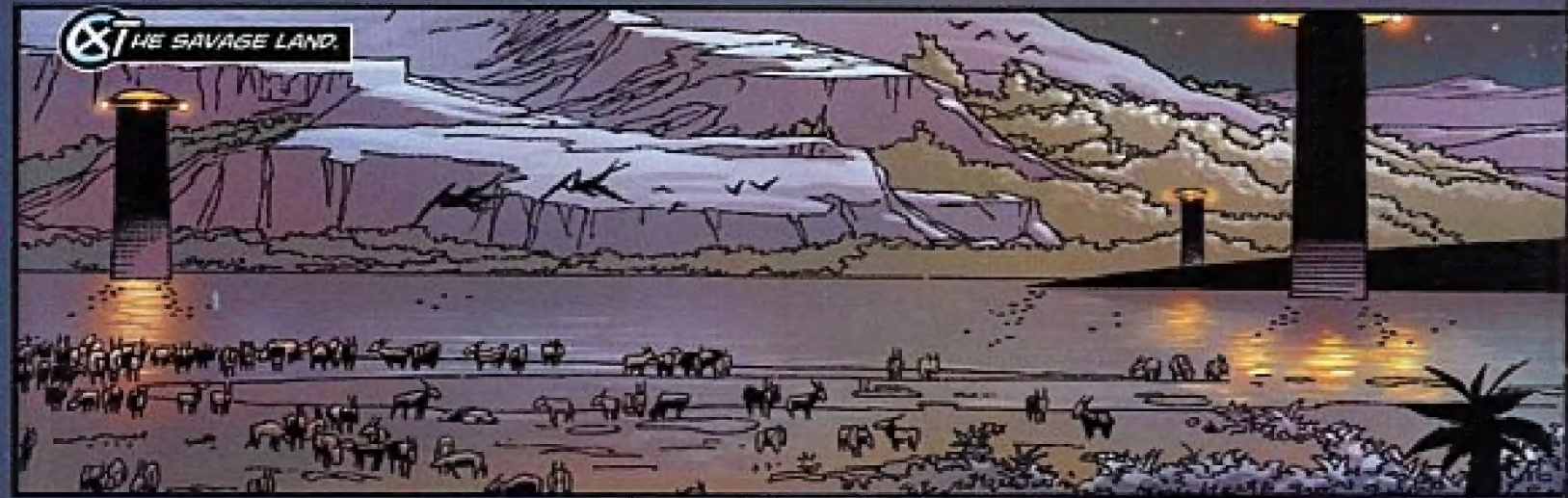
WELL, RIGHT
NOW I'M FEELING
MONOSYLLABIC,
MAN.

GIVE ME A CALL
WHEN YOU GET TIRED
OF SUCKING UP TO THE
EVIL EMPIRE.

BEAST TO ALL
AVAILABLE X-MEN. I
REPEAT, THIS IS BEAST
CALLING ANY X-MEN
CURRENTLY ON THE
PREMISES --



WOULD
SOMEBODY
COME ALONG TO
THE INFIRMARY
AND EXPLAIN WHY
I'VE SUDDENLY
GOT BLUE
HAIR?





OKAY,
MAGNETO. I'M
INTERESTED.

LET'S HEAR
WHAT YOU'VE
GOT TO SAY FOR
YOURSELF.





WELCOME
TO THE SAVAGE
LAND, BROTHER
CYCLOPS.

TO BE
CONTINUED